



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TREASURER LAUDS APPROVAL OF HISTORIC HIGH-SPEED RAIL BOND ACT

SACRAMENTO – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides praised the Governor's approval today of a \$9.95 billion bond measure to fund a high-speed rail system connecting Northern and Southern California as an historic and critically important investment in California's future. The measure, SB 1856, authored by Senator Jim Costa and sponsored by Treasurer Angelides, will go before the voters on the November 2004 ballot.

"High-speed rail is a smart investment in California's transportation and economic future. This measure represents the most significant improvement to our State's infrastructure in decades, and will play a crucial role in our continued economic progress," Angelides said.

Angelides noted that the measure "will provide transportation options for the 21st Century, enhance our environment and air quality, and bolster our economic strength." As Treasurer, Angelides has taken a leading role in pursuing the cost-effective financing of infrastructure to bolster the State's economic vitality. With California projected to grow by over 12 million residents in the next twenty years, Treasurer Angelides has long advocated that the State once again commit itself to investing in infrastructure, like high-speed rail, in order to maintain California's quality of life and economic strength.

Recently the Treasurer issued an analysis of the State's debt capacity, which showed that the high-speed rail bonds could be authorized and issued, while still maintaining a prudent debt ratio and cost-effective borrowing rates. The analysis also showed that there is ample market capacity for the high-speed rail bonds.

Angelides further commented, "The high-speed rail system will be particularly beneficial to Central Valley communities, helping to attract high-quality employment to a region beset by double-digit unemployment. Absent this investment, the Valley will continue to experience substantial population growth, accompanied by worsening commutes to job centers in the Bay Area and the Los Angeles basin."

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